

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. APPM/006390/DSM/BCVD/JP

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated January 3, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 3, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-24 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 7 and 9 have been cancelled by Applicant. Claims 23 and 24 have been added by applicant. Claims 1-6, 11-18 and 22 stand rejected and claims 7-10 and 19-21 are objected to and indicated to be allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 to clarify the invention. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 and 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of *Lackritz et al* (U.S. Publ. No. 2004/00046963) and *Savas et al* (U.S. Publ. No. 2005/0112883). Applicant respectfully responds.

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate claims 7 and 19, respectively, which would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 7-10 and 19-21 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant appreciates the finding of allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 7 and

Page 7

429434_2

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. APPW008390/DSM/BCVD/JP

19 which have been canceled. Claims 8-10 and 20-21 have been amended to depend on claims 1 and 11, respectively. The objection is now moot since claims 1 and 11 are now allowable. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

New independent claim 23 is claim 10 written in independent form, which has been indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Therefore claims 23, and its dependent claim 24, are in allowable form.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith M. Tackett
Registration No. 32,008
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)